GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3215
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2008
IMPORT OF PALM OIL AND OTHER EDIBLE OILS
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of Palm oil and other edible oils are likely to increase due to the recent changes in custom duty of edible oils;

(b) if so, the details of imports made during the last three years, and the current year till date, items-wise;

(c) whether the farmers growing coconut and other edible oil seeds are likely to get affected;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to help the farmers in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e) The domestic production of edible oils is insufficient to meet the domestic demand.Imports are permitted to maintain uninterrupted supply of edible oils at affordable prices to the consumers.Accordingly,reduction in import duty on edible oils recently has been made.Details of item-wise import of edible oil are annexed.

To protect the interest of coconut growers in the country, import of coconut oil is allowed only through State Trading Corporation Limited.Further,import of palm oil is not allowed through any port in Kerala.The export obligation period on coconut oil imported under Advance Authorisation Scheme has been reduced from 24 months to 90 days.This step has been taken to ensure that such imported oil is used only for fulfilling export obligation and not sold in the domestic market.